

August 9, 2023



FROM THE DESK OF  
COMMISSIONER  
BRENT BAILEY  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



*The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues and the continuous work we are doing for the citizens in the Central District and across the state of Mississippi. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.*

*Brent Bailey*

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## National Safe Digging Day – August 11

An underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the United States, meaning that ten times an hour, a potentially dangerous and quite costly incident causes a utility outage for anywhere from one customer to an entire neighborhood, business park or factory. Mississippi has seen its own share of damaged underground utilities that have caused neighborhoods to lose water pressure, caused businesses to lose access to critical data and communications, caused schools to evacuate and caused wastewater to back up into homes.



This coming Friday (August 11) is National Safe Digging Day, or 811 Day. In honor of this day, we remind everyone to call 811 before you dig to get underground utilities marked and to ensure the practice of safe, responsible digging after the markings have been made. Calling 811 or visiting [www.ms811.org](http://www.ms811.org), has proven to be the foremost preventive measure in excavation safety and damage prevention. Research has revealed that if someone calls 8-1-1 before they dig, they have a 99 percent chance of avoiding an incident, injury, harm to the environment and even death.

Our friends at Mississippi 811 are dedicated to conducting public awareness campaigns and educational workshops



**Mississippi Damage Prevention Summit, November 2022**



**Mississippi Association of Supervisors  
94th Annual Convention, June 2023**

with the goal of preventing damage to underground utility infrastructure and protecting those who live and work near these important utility assets. I am proud to support the staff and activities of Mississippi 811 as they work to prevent damage to underground facilities and promote public safety and environmental protection through education and communication.



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Please note that effective as of July 1, 2023, the Mississippi Legislature implemented some [changes to the "Mississippi Dig Law"](#) via [SB 2102](#). First, the period to locate buried utilities was extended from two (2) working days to three (3) working days. Second, the new law reduces from four (4) hours to (2) hours that an underground utility owner/operator must contact the excavator who sees evidence of and reports an unmarked utility after the period to locate has expired. Third, the new law clarifies that false emergencies is a fineable offense and adds the term "impending



**Neshoba County Fair, July 2023**

emergency" that includes pre-excavation notice of at least twelve hours prior to excavation. It also requires an excavator to provide contact information for a person readily available to discuss the impending emergency excavation with utility operators. Fourth, any prevailing party in a buried utilities damage suit may recover reasonable legal expenses, including attorney's fees. While there are other aspects of the law that may need further review, these changes should create more time for locators to do their work as the volume of 811 notifications continues to increase.



**In 2022, Mississippi 811 received 533,705 notifications that generated up to 2,482,658 utility locate requests.** The notification center is funded by member utility companies operating or maintaining underground facilities throughout the state.

Mississippi 811 and its partners continue to be a national leader in developing innovative solutions to improve detection, safety and responsibility across all stakeholder groups.

**I'm planning to dig. How does 811 work?**

1	2	3	4	5
NOTIFY	WAIT	CONFIRM	RESPECT	DIG CAREFULLY

1. Call 811 or go to Call811.com a few days before digging to request that buried utilities in your yard be marked.
2. Wait a few days for all utilities to respond to your request.
3. Confirm that all utilities have responded.
4. Respect the utility marks or flags.
5. Dig carefully around buried utilities.

**811**  
Call811.com

**BLOOD DRIVE ON 811 DAY**

**SAVE A LIFE GIVE BLOOD!**

It takes less than 1 hour to donate blood & make a difference. Food, door prizes & gift cards will be provided by our sponsors.

**Where: MS 811 Inc**  
**200 Country Place Pkwy,**  
**Pearl, MS**

**811Day**

**08 11 23**  
11 AM

Don't be an unwanted statistic. National Safe Digging Day (August 11) serves as an important reminder that everyone, whether a homeowner with a shovel or a professional excavator with an earthmover, must Call Before You Dig! Again, the leading cause of all underground utility damage is the failure to make notification to the 811 center. Don't make a judgment call, make a phone call. Know what's below. Every time you plan to dig, call 811. It's free, it's easy, and it's the law.



**Don't let a small project cause a BIG problem!**

811 is your first step to safety for all digging projects, regardless of the size. Keep yourself, your community and underground utilities safe this summer and all year round by calling 811 or going online to [811beforeyoudig.com](#) before putting a shovel in the ground.





## MPSC Files Comments on EPA's Proposed Rule Regulating GHG Emission from Power Plants

On Tuesday, the Mississippi Public Service Commission (MPSC) submitted [comments](#) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in response to its newly Proposed Rule to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from electric generating units. The proposed rule repeals the prior administration's Affordable Clean Energy Rule (ACE Rule), puts forth new emission performance standards and creates new emission reduction guidelines and actions for existing power plants. The [Proposed Rule](#) presents many issues that will directly impact Mississippi's electric sector, from supply chain capabilities to the rates paid by customers.

The MPSC previously supported the ACE Rule as an appropriate, lawful alternative to the Clean Power Plan that the U.S. Supreme Court held in a 6-3 decision that the EPA exceeded its jurisdiction and authority under the Clean Air Act, and did not propose standards that reflect the "best system of emission reduction" (BSER) or flexibility in compliance implementation. EPA's new regulatory regime does provide for some state autonomy in certain aspects, but the MPSC believes the Proposed Rule fails to reflect the economic and technical realities of today's electric generation landscape.

While the MPSC shares EPA's desire to protect human health and the environment, the MPSC also takes seriously its duty to keep the lights on for Mississippians. The MPSC has great concerns the Proposed Rule would shutter or add significant costs to many of our existing generation assets thus adversely affecting power adequacy, grid reliability and customer costs. The EPA-recommended BSER technologies are unproven or currently uneconomical and the timelines for implementation are unreasonable. The MPSC has a responsibility to protect customers via our pledge to provide the most reliable, affordable service possible.

## E-RSC Passes Resolution on Future Transmission Cost Allocation

At the end of June, the Entergy Regional State Committee (E-RSC) voted unanimously on a [resolution](#) that identifies core principles that should be reflected in any cost allocation methodology adopted by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) for Tranche 3 of the Long-Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) Initiative. The E-RSC was formed in 2009, in part, to provide collective retail regulator input on changes to improve the transmission planning and operations of the Entergy Transmission System and to provide input on cost allocation methodologies.

Tranche 3 transmission projects of the LRTP Initiative will be located and cost-allocated solely within the MISO South subregion, which consists parts of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The E-RSC regulator members support a cost allocation method for Tranche 3 based on cost causation and beneficiary pays principles. The E-RSC will continue working to finalize a granular cost allocation methodology proposal for Tranche 3 of the LRTP Initiative for MISO's consideration.



## Last Week at the MPSC

- ✉ **Terracom Inc.** d/b/a **MaxsipTel** filed its [Petition](#) for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in the State.
- ✉ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its New Technologies Pilot [Reports](#) for the years 2023, 2022, and 2021. This voluntary filing comes after **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** previously provided these to the **Public Utilities Staff**, pursuant to the **Commission's** Order in this matter.





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- ✎ **CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.** filed its [Application](#) for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Proposed **Stone County** Service Area No. 5; and for Approval of Construction of Certain Facilities. The proposed service area includes one (1) assured customer and approximately eighty-one (81) prospective customers. To furnish natural gas service to the existing service area and to the proposed Service Area 5 as the area develops, **CenterPoint** intends to initially construct approximately three and a half (3.5) miles of 4-inch steel main as a trunk line. The cost of said facilities is estimated to be approximately \$2.47 million. This estimated cost, which includes all labor and materials, is based on standing contracts with local contractors.
- ✎ **Canton Municipal Utilities** [filed its Notice of Intent](#) to Increase Water Rates beginning October 1, 2023. The proposed rate increase for water services apply the same to customers inside and outside the city limits. The rate changes include a (ten) 10 percent increase to base rates and replacement of the declining-block consumption rate system with a single flat consumption rate of \$3.52 per 100 cubic feet (or \$4.71 per kgal) for those customers located outside the city limits. The proposed rate changes aim to eliminate the deficit, align revenues more closely to costs, and fund critical system needs to maintain dependable levels of service. These needs include system upgrades for improved iron removal, elevated tank maintenance and repairs, and water line replacement and upgrades. Also, the **Mississippi Department of Health's** latest inspection report recommended a rate increase to fund an adequate reserve account.
- ✎ **Canton Municipal Utilities** filed its [Notice of Intent](#) to Increase Sewer Rates beginning October 1, 2023. The proposed rate changes for sewer services apply the same to customers inside and outside the approval limits and the proposed rate increase is the same for INSIDE and OUTSIDE customers. The rate changes include a 25% increase to base rates, removal of the summer discount rates, a single flat consumption rate of \$3.47 per 100 cubic feet (or \$4.64 per kgal), and addition of a "MCWA Fee" of \$1.50/kgal for all sewer customers outside the city limits. The proposed rate changes intend to eliminate the deficit, align revenues more closely to costs, and fund critical system maintenance needs to maintain dependable levels of service. These critical system needs include the maintenance and repair of a pump station and sewer lines and implementation of a SCADA system.
- ✎ **Mississippi Power Company** filed its Amendments to the Special Contracts between **Mississippi Power Company** and **Makerstar Capital, Inc.** for the provision of electric service at the facilities in [Wiggins](#) and [Meridian](#).
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its [Notice](#) of a routine change in the standard rates that apply to qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities. Schedule QF-23 is hereby filed to be effective for energy provided on and after September 29, 2023. The Qualifying Facility shall have an option between 3.015 cents/kwh for all hours or 3.325 cents/kwh for peak hours and 2.602 cents/kwh for off-peak hours (Peak hours are 7 am to 11 pm and Off-peak hours are all other hours).
- ✎ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Public Workshop [Final Deck](#). **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** conducted its Initial Public Workshop on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 9:00 am in the **Commission's** hearing room on the first floor of the Woolfolk State Office Building, located at 501 N. West Street, Jackson, MS. The Workshop was streamed live. The [link](#) to the live stream can also be found on **Mississippi Public Service Commission's** website. The purpose of the initial workshop is for the electric utility and interested parties to exchange pertinent information concerning the IRP process, such as resource options, planning assumptions, and inputs that may be used in the development of the utility's Integrated Resource Plan.





## YOU'RE INVITED

Wednesday, August 23rd | 5:00 – 7:00 PM CT

 The Hesdorffer  
159 W Peace St, Canton, MS 39046

EDP Renewables invites you to join us for our **Ragsdale Solar Park Construction Kickoff!** Along with Signal Energy Constructors and Beta Engineering, subject matter experts will be available to answer questions, discuss the development and construction process, and celebrate our growing relationships with the Madison County communities.

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR:

- Refreshments catered by Two Rivers Restaurant
- Construction updates & job opportunities
- One-on-one conversations with the development team
- Free Ragsdale-branded swag

Please RSVP to Grace Clark  
[Grace.Clark@edp.com](mailto:Grace.Clark@edp.com) | 713.205.1006

 [www.edpr.com/north-america](http://www.edpr.com/north-america)

## CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



Today, Entergy Mississippi held its initial Public Workshop for their Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Cycle for 2024. The MPSC's IRP Rule establishes energy resource planning requirements and reporting deadlines for electric utilities.

This process builds on [Entergy Mississippi's 2021 IRP](#) submission to provide the most comprehensive assumptions to guide long-term energy resource portfolio planning and assessment of customers' needs over the next 20 years.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **41** complaints in the Central District.

Electric Companies	27
Telecommunications	12
Water/Sewer	2